

13 July 1982
MAU-2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Austrian Bureau Construction Project

1. This memorandum recommends two actions on the part of FBIS Headquarters:

A. Funding of an Austrian Bureau construction project in the amount of approximately \$6,300; and

B. Initiation of the required paperwork to secure for the Chief, Austrian Bureau, authority to act as Contracting Officer in the execution of a firm fixed-price construction contract.

2. One of the recommendations arising from the September 1981 security survey of Austrian Bureau resulted in the bureau acquiring two additional 55-gallon Sodium Nitrate Kits. In order to bring the two drums (together with the single drum already in the bureau's possession) within the designated third-floor safe-haven area, they were placed on the open veranda off the Main Radio Room. After a season exposed to the rigors of Vienna's winter, the drums are showing sufficient surface rusting to concern us about the long-term viability of their placement in the open. We do not, however, have the floor space inside the building to house the drums; nor does it seem logical to attempt to store such items in an area where they could never be used.


3. The need for a better storage area for the sodium nitrate drums, coupled with the lack at the bureau of workspace for the messier maintenance jobs (e.g., cleaning of teletype printers) led Bureau Engineer [] and I to develop the concept of enclosing a portion of the third-floor veranda to meet both purposes. The plan we developed would tie the third-floor turret-like room located across the veranda directly to the main part of the building by means of a covered walkway/workroom. Within this area, the sodium nitrate drums would be placed on dollies proximate to wide doors through which they could be easily wheeled in the event of need.

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4. A number of firms dealing in construction work of the projected type were contacted, and we eventually secured three bids, one for a metal construction and two for concrete block. For a number of reasons, including possible antenna reflection problems, we decided that the more temporary and essentially unfinished metal construction was not the best approach. Of the two firms that would use concrete blocks and produce a relatively finished area, one firm showed sufficiently greater alertness to potential problems (building permits, esthetic integration into the existing building, weight-load considerations, etc) to lead us to conclude that we should accept its bid of Austrian Shillings 102,329.60 (\$6,201.79 at AS 16.50 to U.S. \$1). Of this amount, AS 15,609.60 (\$946.04), the 18 percent Value Added Tax, would eventually be refunded by the Austrian Government, for a total cost to the U.S. Government of \$5,255.76.

5. Because Austrian Bureau has covered a number of unprogrammed requirements (including the second Nefax machine and a new copier) from within its FY-1982 allotment, we cannot fund this project from within the existing budget. Thus, should FY-1982 year-end funds become available at FBIS Headquarters, I recommend that consideration be given to funding the construction project discussed above.

6. I also recommend that, even should project funding not be immediately available, FBIS Headquarters initiate a request to the Office of Logistics for authorization for the Chief, Austrian Bureau, to act as Contracting Officer in the execution of a firm fixed-price contract not to exceed \$6,300 for construction of a covered walkway/workroom on the third-floor veranda.


Chief, Austrian Bureau

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